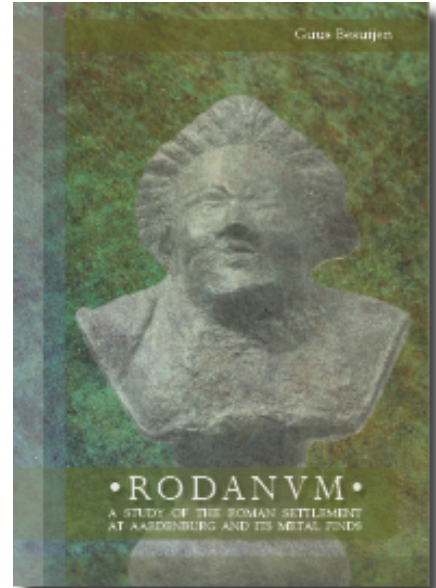


Press Release

Rodanum: new study on Roman occupation at Aardenburg published by Sidestone Press

Leiden, January 24, 2009

Beneath the surface of Aardenburg, a small town in the south-western part of the Netherlands, lie the remains of a Roman settlement that is presumed to have been named Rodanum. Extensive archaeological excavations were carried out from the late 1950's to the late 1980's, mainly by J.A. Trimpe Burger. Archaeologist Guus Besuijen studied metal finds from Rodanum. The results of his study are published in "RODANUM - A Study of the Roman Settlement at Aardenburg and its Metal Finds". A thorough overview of Roman occupation in the region provides a firm background for his study of Rodanum through analyses of the metal finds. The book contains an extensive catalogue of over 80 pages.



The first part of this study provides an overview of Aardenburg during the Roman period, in which its economic and military functions within the region are explored. The military and civilian character of the town are discussed in particular. The second part contains a study of the metal objects and aims to present significant additional information. Besuijen concludes this part with a critical review of the current state of research at this important Roman-age site. The catalogue contains full description and (fullcolour) images of the metal finds.

The excavations carried out at Aardenburg have revealed that the Roman settlement was similar in size or even larger than the modern community at this location. Its centre was formed by a large castellum-type fortification wall that enclosed several large stone buildings. The settlement was connected to the sea by a natural watercourse that defined its economic and logistical importance in the region. Rodanum's military function was to secure the regional coast against attacks by Germanic tribes via the North Sea, which occurred around AD 175. It continued to be inhabited until the late third century or the beginning of the fourth century, after which the settlement was deserted until the early Middle Ages.

RODANUM - A Study of the Roman Settlement at Aardenburg and its Metal Finds - Guus Besuijen

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